

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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DRAFTED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES:VLV
APPROVED BY EB:JLKATZ
EA/J - S.ECTON (INFO)
EB/TCA - JWBILLER

-----079616 060108Z /72

O 060031Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, JA

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN CIVAIR ISSUES

1. DEPTOFFS (PRINCIPALLY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ) HAVE BEEN PRESSING GOJ FOR APPROVAL FLYING TIGER JANUARY 9 SCHEDULE CHANGE (INVOLVING EXTENSION OF THREE FLIGHTS TO SINGAPORE) OVER PAST TWO WEEKS THROUGH JAPANESE EMBASSY WITHOUT RESULTS. HOWEVER, WE KNOW THAT JAL IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO APPROVAL OF SINGAPORE FLIGHTS AND OTHER SIGNS INDICATE MOT MAY BE DISPOSED DISAPPROVE SCHEDULE CHANGE. ON JANUARY 5, ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ MET WITH FUKADA OF JAPANESE EMBASSY ON THIS QUESTION AND OTHER BROADER CIVAIR ISSUES.

2. FUKADA, WHO HAD BEEN TOLD BEFOREHAND THAT KATZ WANTED AN ANSWER RE FTL SCHEDULE CHANGE, SAID (A) GOJ WANTED A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIMPLE EXTENSION THROUGH MARCH OF THE CAPACITY FREEZE AGREED IN JULY; (B) IF US HAD ANY SPECIFIC AIRLINE CAPACITY CHANGES IN MIND, GOJ SHOULD BE INFORMED OF DETAILS; AND (C) GOJ WOULD DECIDE FTL QUESTION AFTER RECEIVING ANSWER TO FOREGOING POINTS.

3. KATZ REPLIED THAT USG NOT PREPARED AGREE SIMPLE CAPACITY

FREEZE EXTENSION. US DOES NOT REGARD FTL SCHEDULE CHANGE AS

CAPACITY INCREASE AND, EVEN IF IT WERE SO REGARDED, DENIAL OF CHANGE WOULD VIOLATE 1959 AGREED M-NUE. US COULD NOT TOLERATE SUCH HARASSMENT. IN ADDITION, US HAS OTHER SERIOUS CONCERNS INVOLVING JAPANESE AIRPORTS. SITUATION AT OSAKA IS DE FACTO DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE JAL CAN USE WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT THERE CONNECTING WITH INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS AT TOKYO, WHEREAS US AIRLINES CANNOT. IMPENDING MOVE TO NARITA ALSO PRESENTS SERIOUS PROBLEMS, SUCH AS GREATLY INCREASED USER CHARGES, FREIGHT HANDLING AND FUEL SUPPLY. THESE AIRPORT PROBLEMS CANNOT BE DEFERRED UNTIL MARCH AND EARLIER CONSULTATIONS WILL BE NECESSARY.

4. KATZ EMPHASIZED THAT THESE PROBLEMS WERE SERIOUS ONES AND COULD ESCALATE TO MAJOR PROPORTIONS. SPECIFICALLY, IF FTL SCHEDULE CHANGE DISAPPROVED, US WOULD HAVE TO REGARD THIS ACTION AS VIOLATION BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND TO TAKE COMPENSATORY ACTION AGAINST JAL. DISCRIMINATORY AND UNFAIR PRACTICES AT NARITA COULD ALSO LEAD DOT TO CONSIDER INVOKING COMPETITIVE FAIR PRACTICES ACT.

5. FUKADA SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO TOKYO BUT WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC RE FTL QUESTION. HE SAID NOT BELIEVED DISAPPROVAL OF FTL APPLICATION WOULD NOT BE VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT, BUT COULD NOT CITE REASONING FOR THIS CONCLUSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN ANY EVENT, HE FELT THAT TOKYO SHOULD HAVE US PAPER WHICH KATZ HAD SAID IN EARLIER CONVERSATION US WAS WORKING ON. KATZ DELIVERED COPY US DOCUMENT 5 (TEXT IN SEPTTEL).

6. RE MODALITIES, KATZ SAID CONSULTATIONS ON AIRPORT QUESTIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN TOKYO ASAP, SUCH AS LATE JANUARY, BUT WE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE DATES LATER BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES OF US PRINCIPALS. IT WAS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS BE MORE THAN AT TECHNICAL LEVEL. CONSEQUENTLY, MFA, MOT, AND NARITA AIRPORT AUTHORITY SHOULD BE INVOLVED ON JAPANESE SIDE AND US WOULD PROBABLY SEND STYLES WITH DOT AND CAB REPS. KATZ ALSO URGED THAT THERE BE FURTHER INFORMAL EFFORTS BEFORE MARCH NEGOTIATIONS TO FIND A CONCEPTUAL BASIS FOR FINAL AGREEMENT AT THAT TIME.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD REITERATE SERIOUSNESS OF ISSUES, PARTICULARLY FTL QUESTION, TO JAPANESE OFFICIALS AS APPROPRIATE.

CHRISTOPHER

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